CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background of research, statements of problem, research questions, purposes and significances of research, and organization of writing.

A. Background of Research

Human’s daily-life is fully constructed by sign. There are many concrete things in this world that can be recognized as sign from a simple to a complex one. A flag, a logo, a trademark, a monument, a portrait, and etc are common examples of sign that habitually found among us. Pierce argues, “sign is something which stands to somebody for something in some respects or capacity.” As it will be seen, a sign can stand for something else to somebody only because this ‘standing for’ relation is immediated by interpretant (Eco, 1979: 15).

Pierce also insists there are two basic principles of characteristics of sign. Those characteristics are ‘representative’ and ‘interpretative’. Sign is representative when sign is meant as something represents something else. While sign is interpretative when sign is meant as it gives an opportunity for interpretation depends on who use and accept it (Dadan Rusmana, 2004: 50).

Pierce distinguishes three classes of signs; these are defined in terms of kind relation between the signifying item and which it signifies; an icon, an index, and a symbol (Abrams, 1985: 275). An icon functions as a sign by means of
inherent similarities, or shared features. An index is a sign which bears a natural relation of cause or effect to what it signifies (Abrams, 1985: 276). In a symbol, the relation between the signifying item and what it signifies is not a natural one, but entirely a matter of social convention (Abrams, 1985: 276). From those three classes of signs, symbol is the most superior because it has a function of thought, imagination, and sense (Burhan Nurgiyantoro, 1998: 42). Thus, this research concentrates to analyze the symbols in literature.

Symbol is sign, mark, object, and so on that looked upon as representing something (Hornby, 1987: 876). A rose, for example, may indicate love; a dove stands for the peace, and etc. Furthermore, symbol is a word or something which can be analogized as a related word to (1) the user’s interpretation, (2) the rules of usage that depends on the context, and (3) the creation of the meaning given that suitable to user’s dimension. The symbol that is included and related to those three aspects is called a symbolic form (Alex Sobur, 2004: 58).

In the broadest sense, a symbol is anything which signifies something. In this sense all words are symbolic, because the more we read and study literature, the more we will come across words that always function symbolically. In discussing literature, the term symbol applies only to word or phrase that signifies an object or event which in its turn signifies something, or has a range of reference, beyond itself (Abrams, 1985: 206). It may suggest human’s reality or even human’s attitude like “evil”.

Evil may be described as the sum of the opposition, which experience shows to exist in the universe, to the desires and needs of individuals; whence
beings arises, among humans at least, the sufferings in which life abounds (Sharpe, 1990). With regard to the nature of evil, it should be observed that evil is of three kinds -- physical, moral, and metaphysical.

“Physical” evil includes all that causes harm to man, either in the order of nature directly, or through the various social conditions under which mankind naturally exists (Sharpe, 1990). “Moral” evil is understood the deviation of human volition from the prescriptions of the moral order and the action which results from that deviation. “Metaphysical” evil is the limitation by one another of various component parts of the natural world (Sharpe, 1990).

In some religions, evil is an active force, often personified as an entity such as Satan or Ahriman. In islam, the evil is usually called iblis. It is one of the “jinn”. The characteristics of iblis are disobeying command of Lord when Adam created, in the Koran surah Al-Kahfi: 50.

And (remember) when We said to the Angels: “Prostrate yourselves to Adam.” So they prostrated themselves except iblis (satan). He was one of the jinn; he disobeyed the command of his Lord. Will you then take him (Iblis) and his offspring as protectors and helpers rather than Me while they are enemies to you? What an evil is the exchange for the zalimun (polytheists, and wrongdoers, etc.”

Previously, symbol in literature can represent human’s attitude like the symbol of evil. In Lord of the Flies, the whole book is symbolic in nature except the rescue in the end and where adult like appears, dignified, and capable, but in reality enmeshed in the same evil as the symbolic life of the children in the island (Eipstein in Golding, 1954: 186). Moreover, Lord of the Flies is a translation of the Hebrew Ba’alzevuv (Be’elzebub in Greek). It has been suggested it was a mistranslation of a mistranslated word which gave us this pungent and suggestive
name of the devil, a devil whose name suggest that he is devoted to decay, deconstruction, hysteria, and panic (Eipstein in Golding, 1954: 187).

Finally, for those reasons, the researcher is interested to analyze the symbols of evil in William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*, and entitled this graduating paper as “Symbol of Evil in William Golding’s Novel *Lord of the Flies*”.

B. Statement of Problem

In *Lord of the Flies*, Golding makes his novel come alive with a significant use of symbols. The symbol itself may stand the reference of evil in intrinsic elements of this novel. It can be formed as character, setting, imagery, atmosphere, and etc. Symbol in literature can be identified based on some appropriate theories. Symbol, according to Pierce, is a part of sign, so that its characteristics are similar with sign’s characteristics; representative and interpretative.

For those reasons, in this research paper, the researcher tries to identify, analyze, and categorize symbol of evil based on “Theory of Symbols” by Northrop Frye. Frye divides symbols into four phases: literal and descriptive phase: symbol as motif and as sign, formal phase: symbol as image, mythical phase: symbol as archetype, and anagogic phase: symbol as monad.

Therefore, the problem analyzed in this research concerns the searching of symbols of evil in Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*, representing and interpreting the
category of symbols through a process that is constructed by the relevant theory of symbol by Northrop Frye.

C. Research Questions

The problem in previous is formulated into questions:

1. What are the representations of evil symbols in William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*?

2. What are the categories’ interpretations of evil symbols in the novel based on Frye’s theory?

D. Purpose and Significance of Research

The purposes of this research are to represent symbols of evil in William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies* and to interpret the categories of symbols of evil in the novel based on the theory of symbol by Northrop Frye.

The significance of this research, for the researcher, is a challenge in improving the comprehension of literary study and also this research gives new understanding about the symbol in literature because the researcher is interested to symbol. For the reader, this research has a significant to be directed to the students of literary subjects; and the literary study especially for further analysis. Furthermore, this research is a reference is directed to those who are interested to this research, or who are excited in reading Golding’s novel or perhaps those who like symbol.
E. Organization of Writing

1. Introduction

This chapter deals with the background of research, statements of problem, research questions, purposes and significances of research, and organization of writing.

2. Theoretical Review

This chapter reviews theories underlying and supporting the research including: a) the theories of symbol include; theory of symbolism and Frye’s theory of symbol, b) the concept of evil, and c) the description of *Lord of the Flies* include; biographical sketch of William Golding, about *Lord of the Flies* and synopsis of *Lord of the Flies*.

3. Methodology

This chapter elaborates methodology of this research. It begins with the method of research, the data, sources of data, the technique of collecting data, and ends with the technique of analyzing data.

4. Symbol of Evil in William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*

This chapter provides data representation and discussion based on Frye’s theory of symbol.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

This is the final chapter that provides the conclusion of the whole analysis and suggestion for better understanding.